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This Is C. T. R. Reed

Mari Evans

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Homage to My Hair / Lucille Clifton

WHEN I FEEL HER JUMP UP AND DANCE
I HEAR THE MUSIC, MY GOD,
I'M TALKING ABOUT MY NAPPY HAIR!
SHE IS A CHALLENGE TO YOUR HAND
BLACK MAN, SHE IS AS TASTY ON YOUR TONGUE
AS GOOD GREENS, BLACK MAN,
SHE CAN TOUCH YOUR MIND WITH HER
ELECTRIC FINGERS AND THE
GRAYER SHE DO GET, MY GOD,
THE BLACKER SHE DO BE!

This Is C. T. R. Reed / Mari Evans (A Black Man of the Old School)

Bending waist deep
blackfingered smiling sure
good mornin madum this
is C. T. R. Reed

Fashioning Kilimanjaro from his
fivefootnine he
stood
 for something
he handled
 responsibility
he dealt
 with laboring
he loved
 his image knew who
he was
 tendertough
 tinder/tuff
 wrysweet
 constant
good mornin madum this
 is
C. T. R. Reed